

**CONVOCATION ADDRESS OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR**

**PROFESSOR FELIX KOLAWOLE SALAKO (FSSSN)**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE**

**27<sup>TH</sup> CONVOCATION CEREMONY**

**OF THE**

**FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, ABEOKUTA**

**(FUNAAB)**

**OGUN STATE**

**ON**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2020**

## **1. PROTOCOL**

The Visitor, Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari *GCFR*, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Federal Republic of Nigeria

Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Alhaji Mohammed Sabo Nanono

Honourable Minister of Education, Alhaji Adamu Adamu

Members of the Federal Executive Council

Your Excellency, The Executive Governor of Ogun State, Prince Dapo Abiodun

Your Excellencies, Other Executive Governors

Members of State Executive Council

The Executive Secretary, National Universities Commission

Chairman of Convocation and The Chancellor, His Eminence Edidem Ekpo Okon, Abasi Out (V), the Obong of Calabar

The Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of FUNAAB Governing Council

Members of the Governing Council

Pro-Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors from Other Universities

Other Principal Officers of FUNAAB

Members of Senate, Congregation and Convocation

Members of Staff and Students of FUNAAB

Your Royal Majesties and Highnesses

Gentlemen of the Press

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

## **2. INTRODUCTION**

I sincerely welcome our distinguished guests and highly revered stakeholders to the 27<sup>th</sup> Convocation of the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB). We have the privilege, again, to witness the presentation of certificates of First and Higher degrees to graduands. Included in today's ceremony is the conferment of Honorary Degree on an outstanding individual, Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, President of the African Development Bank. Two

Emeritus Professors, namely Professor Julius Amioba Okojie and Professor Israel Folorunso Adu, shall also be appointed

Yesterday, our Convocation Lecture, titled “***The Beast Unburdened Once Again: Artificial Intelligence and Life More Abundant***” was delivered by Prof. Adebayo Williams, a scholar with a career spanning almost fifty years. He has been described as “a polyvalent intellectual and multi-disciplinary scholar, with books and scholarly articles in several fields, namely: “Theory of Literature, Political Theory, Theory of Governance and Democratisation, Cultural Production, Post-Colonial Theory and Creative Writing”. For our graduands, I think the take-home from the lecture is that there are emerging opportunities even when machines and various computer/technological adaptations are taking over traditional human activities. Check very well! For instance, a human being developed the computer application which might have led to elimination or reduction of human participation in a task. Jobs are being created where and when we think jobs are being lost. Your education is to bring out the best of your creative mind.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, to the glory of God, the 27<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremony will be the second that I will be hosting in my capacity as the sixth substantive Vice-Chancellor of our University. I express my deep appreciation to you all for honouring us with your presence. We will continue to show profound gratitude to our founding fathers, friends, associates and well-wishers for their toil, sacrifices and goodwill in driving the University from our humble beginning to a formidable institution that FUNAAB has become since it was established 32 years ago.

In a special way, we are grateful to the Visitor for the support received directly and indirectly, since inception, from the Federal Government of Nigeria. We thank various donors who have made funds available for academic, research, infrastructural and community development. We cannot rest on our oars because there is still a lot of room for development and advancement. We assure all stakeholders that we shall continue to be responsibly committed and prudent in the utilization of available resources.

### **3. REFLECTIONS ON THE PAST TWO YEARS**

Excellence is a key word in the vision and mission statements of our University. This also is a key word in the twelve-point agenda I set before and when I assumed office on November 1, 2017. We have ensured peace and stability, in spite of challenges, by providing a listening ear and proffering solutions. We remain focused and shall continue to be accessible without compromising diligence and discipline in the University.

#### **a. Academic Programmes**

The University commenced the 2018/2019 Academic Session for undergraduate/postgraduate and part-time programmes in April and July 2019, respectively. The session witnessed a more elaborate use of electronic applications for student registration, processing of transcripts and conduct of Senate meetings. This has led to improved service delivery for both staff and students.

Prior to 2019 accreditation exercises, 27 of our 29 academic programmes had full accreditation by the National Universities Commission (NUC). We presented 19 programmes for re-accreditation between October and November 2019 and the results are being awaited.

Through our Centre of Excellence in Agricultural Development and Sustainable Environment (CEADESE), FUNAAB blazed the trail as the first public University in Nigeria to obtain International Accreditation for some of its programmes. The Board of the Agency for Quality Assurance System in Germany awarded CEADESE the global recognition based on the standards and guidelines for the following programmes:

- M.AgSE Livestock Science and Sustainable Environment
- M. AgSE Crop Pasture Production and Sustainable Environment
- M.AgSE Agriculture Economics and Environmental Policy
- Ph.D. AgSE Agriculture Economics and Environmental Policy.
- M.AgSE Livestock Science and Sustainable Environment
- M. AgSE Crop Pasture Production and Sustainable Environment

- M.AgSE Agriculture Economics and Environmental Policy
- Ph.D. AgSE Agriculture Economics and Environmental Policy.

The students of CEADESE are Nigerians, and nationals of other West and Central African countries. For the 2017/2018 academic session, the Centre enrolled a total of forty (40) postgraduate students from Nigeria, Benin, Liberia, and The Gambia. For the 2018/2019 academic session, enrolment increased to 45.

We also had accreditation of undergraduate courses by professional bodies such as Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (CIBN), Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN), Council for Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN) and Veterinary Council of Nigeria (VCN). Our Departments of Mechatronic Engineering, Civil Engineering and Mechanical Engineering were fully re-accredited, effective from November 28, 2019 for the next five years.

The College of Management Sciences which was delisted for admission by the Federal Government in April/May 2017 is still carrying on with the training of already registered students, till graduation. There has been no admission into the College since 2017 in spite of the fact that its courses are accredited by the National Universities Commission (NUC). Besides the College has achieved some feats, since the delisting. For instance, there was accreditation by Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) in 2017; Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) in 2019 and Chartered Institute of Bankers (CIBN) in 2019. It has a building, donated in 2017 by the Association of National Accountants of Nigeria (ANAN). Furthermore, it produced ICAN best qualifying candidate and the best female candidate in May 2019 diet examination. More than 10 students of the College qualified for ICAN in 2019 while some students across Departments in the College can now be exempted for certain levels of CIBN and ICAN examinations.

Mr. S. C. Ikeobi who graduated from the Department of Electrical Engineering emerged as the Best Engineering Graduate among his peers from other Nigerian Universities and was so recognized by COREN Assembly on August 22, 2019.

Our Centre of Entrepreneurial Studies (CENTS) is hosting Tunde Kelani, the Chief Executive Officer of Mainframe Films, who was appointed a Visiting Fellow of the University

in October 2019. He received the prestigious Leopold Sedar Senghor Prize in the same month and had brought to bear his professional worth in using modern media to disseminate information. Tunde Kelani's appointment was premised on the need to develop students for their entry into industries, handing over to them skills which would enable them to create their own jobs, particularly in cinematography, creative arts and related disciplines. Other Entrepreneurial trainings are also mounted by CENTS

#### **b. Staff Development**

In 2019, African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) was very active in the training of staff, both male and female. Within a span of six months in 2019, AWARD co-facilitated and trained about 200 staff of both academic and non-teaching (95 males, 105 females) categories. The all-expenses-paid courses within and outside Nigeria included:

1. Mentoring Programme (One-year programme targeting Mid-level Career staff)
2. Gender Training (Targeting the Senior Management at FUNAAB and Mid-Level career staff)
3. Regional Leadership Program for Agricultural Research and Development
4. Scientific and Publishing Skills Course (Targeting Mid-level teaching staff)
5. Self-Leadership Through Personal Branding and Assertiveness Course (Targeting Mid-level teaching and non-teaching staff)

For 2017-2018 merged Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) grant utilized in 2019, fifty-seven (57) applicants were approved by TETFund comprising Academic (Conferences) and Non-Teaching Staff (Workshops). For the 2018-2019 TETFund grants, fifty (50) applicants were approved for the two categories. Three (3) academic staff were approved by TETFund for PhD and M.Phil./Ph.D. There has been a tremendous improvement in the acceptance of proposals and recommendations from the University to TETFund. The success achieved with the available TETFund-supported Conference/Workshop grants could be traced to the painstaking efforts of the Directorate for Research, Innovations and Partnerships (DRIP), which was established in January 2019.

#### **c. Research and Community Development**

The University continues to soar in attracting National and International Grants. The most recent awards for research came in December 2019/January 2020 when our University was

recognized for its vibrancy in producing top grantees of the 2019 TETFund National Research Fund. Seven (7) proposals from our University were approved for funding.

We translate our research Outputs into community development enterprises as demonstrated in the various products (e.g., bread, *garri*, palm oil, palm wine, cashew nuts, odourless fufu flour, sachet and bottled water etc.). In 2018, we expanded our root and tuber processing factory for production of garri, high quality flour and other products from root, tuber and plantain. Our bakery has also been expanded in 2019 for improved production of bread and confectioneries with capacity to promote cassava bread. The expansion of both the root and tuber processing factory and bakery came with support from various research grants.

Our FUNAAB-Alpha chicken is being bred for supply to farmers, with a dedicated hatchery for the project. Another venture, established through research grant, is being maintained and sustained now by the University. The Cattle Production Venture, a project started about ten years ago is being sustained as a ‘town and gown’, community development project. We have established a Veterinary Clinic in Idi Aba, Abeokuta. Furthermore, our students still practice agriculture in Iwoye-Ketu, Isaga Orile, Ode-Lemo and Odogbolu, Ogun State under the Farm Practical Year Programme.

Overall, our university has been in the forefront of research for development and this is consistent with the vision of the founding fathers. All these demonstrate our proactiveness in meeting the needs of Nigerians in terms of food security. They demonstrate further our strong ties with our Communities in the “town and gown” relationship. We have room for further investments in Community Development, particularly on emerging issues such as ranching and rice production if we are well-funded.

At the International level, our staff continue to make appreciable impact. In December 2019, a staff in the Department of Environmental Management won a major grant from the Royal Society, UK to investigate the “Effect of Charcoal Production on Air Quality, Human Respiratory and Cancer Risk in South West, Nigeria”. We are grateful to the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development which built in our University an “Agric Incubation Complex’, equipping it with some facilities in 2019. This project has been commissioned during this convocation.

#### **d. Infrastructural Development**

On infrastructural development, we hit the ground running within the first six months of our administration when the cassava processing factory was expanded and upgraded for processing of root and tuber crops, as well as plantain. This is why it is better called 'Root and Tuber Crop Processing Factory' now. We also went further to review the status of six un-completed projects we inherited from the previous administration and re-strategized with the aim of completing them. Two have been completed, three are nearing completion and one is about 50% completed. Two of the completed have been commissioned during this convocation.

To the Glory of God, our administration embarked on more than twenty-five projects since 2018. These include construction of buildings (12 no) for various needs, purchase of laboratory and food processing equipment, purchase of farm machineries and equipment, rehabilitation of roads, extensive and intensive remedial works on existing buildings, expansion of agricultural activities and production, continuous improvement of internet facilities with extension of facilities to additional locations/buildings, improvement of e-learning/e-library facilities, purchase of books and library equipment, computerization of registry and bursary activities, .

Funds for the various infrastructural development projects came mainly from the Federal Government Capital Grants, NEEDS Assessment, Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) and Research Grants of Academic Staff. We shall continue to be grateful to the Federal Government and her Ministries/Agencies, and the National Universities Commission (NUC). We showcase these projects now because we spent available funds for purposes for which they were meant. There are still needs that have not been met, especially with increasing need of access to quality education by Nigerians. We can do better with increased funding, particularly for us to reach the first-class University standard in the world, as desired by the Federal Government and all stakeholders.

We remain grateful to our scholars who attract grants to the University, which eventually lead to the improvement of teaching and research facilities. We are yet to get to the promised land, so we cannot rest on our oars.

**e. Students and Staff Welfare**

The University places high premium on staff and student welfare Entitlements of staff are accorded great priority. Relevant equipment and facilities are provided for staff, within available fund, to aid productivity. Similarly, outstanding staff and students are appreciated through various means. Staff receive support from the University under reasonable circumstances.

Transportation of students from Camp to Campus was improved with the repair of previously abandoned buses. The congestion at camp was addressed by re-scheduling lectures such that large classes would converge at the bus stop after small-class groups have been transported. Unfortunately, we still have students converging almost at the same time.

We recognize the challenges faced by students. These challenges include epileptic supply of electricity and frequent breakdown of our generators (which have really become the major source of power supply), security threats, particularly in private hostels outside the campus, inadequate transportation, etc. We held regular meetings with the Student Union Executive to find solutions for any of such challenges. For instance, on inadequate transportation, we pointed out some salient points; (i) we are one of the few Federal Universities still providing management-funded transportation for students, (ii) the bus fare paid by students remained the same for over 10 years in spite of increases in pump prices of fuel and inflation which affected spare parts, and (iii) the need for our students to understand government (financial) regulations as it affects the University.

On insecurity in private hostels (all located off-campus), the University significantly supported the establishment of Harmony Police Station a few metres opposite the Campus. Till now, we maintain a strong relationship with the police on matters of security. Our internal security operatives work with the police to stem anti-social activities in these neighbouring hostels.

We wish to reiterate that security of off-campus, private hostels cannot directly be under the University security system but under the Nigeria Police and other recognized government Law Enforcement Agencies. Besides, these hostels which are commercial investments

ought to be provided with facilities by their owners. It became an embarrassment to the University between July and November 2019 that some misguided students maligned the integrity of the University online on account of this abdication of responsibilities by the private business concerned. The motive became clear when law enforcement agents unraveled those behind the malicious online write-ups. First, most of the robbery claims could not be thoroughly ascertained because those who claimed to be victims would not cooperate with law enforcement agents when it came to proper documentation. This was strange but it provided clues into the ulterior motives of their claims. Second, the hostels reportedly robbed were in very remote, difficult-to-access locations. Third, the ‘students’ lived extravagantly and were found with illicit objects. Fourth, and above all, majority of these “students” have either been withdrawn from the University few years ago or had no link with FUNAAB. We thank God for helping us to overcome this period of orchestrated turbulence.

The current administration has supported some students and staff to alleviate their health challenges. A clinical psychologist was recently appointed to advise on psychological traits. Religious leaders and matured staff on campus have assisted in providing moral and ethical interventions each time we called them to counsel staff or students. In few cases, parents or sponsors were invited to discuss issues related to their wards. The home front is very crucial in balancing the psychology of our youths. Therefore, we plead with parents, guardians or sponsors to keep regular contacts (including visits) with their wards, all the time. They must pay attention to the private hostels they live off-campus.

We appreciate the majority of our students who appreciate that dialogue and logical reasoning are better than “heaven-must-fall” tendencies of a few among them. It was obvious to the University that most of the aforementioned challenges were sponsored by anti-social individuals. Our students are not weak when wisdom prevails in a knowledge-driven world. In fact, you are, individually, stronger as a deep thinker and one who loves his/her University. We thank you for being critical stakeholders.

We appreciate the University Alumni Association for the provision of moderately commercial shuttle buses to increase the number of commercial vehicles plying the campus. It is gratifying to note, also, that the Alumni have started giving back to their alma-mater through

financial donations. We appreciate all their contributions to the University. We still call on them to support the University in all ramifications of its advancement.

**f. Security and Information Dissemination**

As stated earlier, the University had its own share of fake news, particularly between July and November 2019. We had the Grace of God to tackle all the issues, including illogical claims published in a supposedly reputable online medium, which have not been brought down even when evidences were provided that the publications were false. We are grateful to the internal University Security outfit for being proactive and active in challenging situations. We wish to thank different law enforcement agencies who have assisted us in maintaining peace on campus and off-campus. The Nigeria Police, Department of State Security Service (DSS) and the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corp (NSCDC) were highly supportive. The Commissioner of Police, Director of SS and the top echelon of NSDC in Ogun State have shown considerable interests in peace and stability of FUNAAB. We thank Ogun State Traditional Rulers who have shown love to us at all times. The Elders and Leaders in various Communities keep affirming their interests in the development and advancement of our University. We reiterate to all stakeholders that the University administration is accessible. They should feel free to advise us on whatever shall bring peace and stability to the University.

**g. Rehabilitation of Roads**

Up to the mid-year in 2019, the road leading to our campus from Camp junction was in a highly deplorable state. The current administration felt the burden of plying the road and the negative impact on the University. Therefore, the University administration took the bull by the horn in sourcing for capital expenditure fund to rehabilitate about 5.6 km Road in 2019. The harrowing experience of staff prior to January 2019 when the road rehabilitation commenced is now a thing of the past. However, we have observed that heavy trucks which ply the road regularly contributed to its deplorable state. We have sought the intervention of the State Government to control vehicular movement on the road based on its carrying capacity.

The Harmony Police station road to Aderupoko farms, near Odeda was also rehabilitated by grading it and constructing concrete underground channels in January 2020. Some roads within the campus have also been rehabilitated (Staff School Road) while work for rehabilitating a 2 km distance from Directorate of University Farms toward Institute of FOOD Security, Environmental Resources and Agricultural Research (IFSERAR) is on-going. This particular work is being executed by the Federal Ministry of Works

#### **h. Gender Sensitivity and Equal Opportunity**

For the first time in the history of FUNAAB, a female student, Miss Tawakalitu Adeola was elected President, Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta Students' Union (FUNAABSU). The credit must go to our students for aligning with laudable goals as expected by reputable international organizations. Also, for the first time in FUNAAB, we have a female Dean of Student Affairs in the person of Prof. Adebunkunola Omemu, who assumed duty in January 2020. The University remains an equal opportunity institution which has been further demonstrated by the jobs given to two physically challenged individuals in 2019.

#### **4. CHARGE TO GRADUANDS**

The University has 46 Departments and a Service Department, Department of Communication and General Studies. Curricula are often reviewed in tandem with advances in the various Programmes, with guidelines of the NUC. We have strengthened our part-time undergraduate degree Programme in the last two years, making it more attractive.

Our graduands today, three thousand two hundred and twenty-six (3226) in population, have been found worthy to be awarded first degree in various disciplines for which they were trained till 2017/ 2018 session and the first semester of 2018/2019 session (Table 1). Various higher degrees were also awarded (Table 2). I congratulate you all. The University graduated 112 students in the First-Class Category. I congratulate you all on behalf of the Council, Principal Officers, Senate, Staff and other Stakeholders.

**Table 1: Summary of Graduands during the January 28, 2020 Graduation Ceremony: 2017/2018 Session and 2018/2019 First Semester, First Degree**

COLLEGE	First Class		Second Class Upper		Second Class Lower		Third Class		Pass		Unclassified		Grand Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
COLAMRUD	6	5	72	65	77	44	21	6					296
COLANIM	11	10	98	98	124	68	22	14	1				446
COLBIOS	5	6	53	72	26	65	10	9	1				247
COLENG	4	1	60	7	61	7	18						158
COLERM	9	7	89	85	86	66	38	8	3				391
COLFHEC	3	7	45	158	36	51	10	13		3			326
COLMAS	5	11	96	136	94	139	34	29	5	2			551
COLPHYS	7	4	94	44	117	42	28	12	1	2			351
COLPLANT	4	7	54	106	114	79	47	10					421
COLVET											23	16	39
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>661</b>	<b>771</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>561</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3226</b>

**Table 2: Summary of Higher Degrees Graduands during the 27<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremony of January 28, 2020**

<b>COLLEGE</b>	<b>PhD</b>	<b>Master (Academic)</b>	<b>Master (Professional)</b>	<b>PGD</b>	<b>PGD Professional</b>	<b>MBA</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>
<b>COLAMRUD</b>	21	33	0	8	18	37	117
<b>COLANIM</b>	21	41	0	3	5	0	70
<b>COLBIOS</b>	14	51	0	0	0	0	65
<b>COLENG</b>	3	4	0	0	0	0	7
<b>COLERM</b>	22	32	19	0	0	0	73
<b>COLFHEC</b>	9	21	0	0	0	0	30
<b>COLPHYS</b>	6	29	7	8	0	0	50
<b>COLPLANT</b>	10	41	0	1	4	0	56
<b>COLVET</b>	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
<b>CEADESE</b>	17	21	0	0	0	0	38
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>507</b>

***ACRONYMS OF COLLEGES PRODUCING GRADUANDS***

- COLAMRUD: College of Agricultural Management and Rural Development
- COLANIM: College of Animal Science and Livestock Production
- COLBIOS: College of Biosciences
- COLENG: College of Engineering
- COLERM: College of Environmental Resources Management
- COLFHEC: College of Food Science and Human Ecology
- COLMAS: College of Management Sciences
- COLPHYS: College of Physical Sciences
- COLPLANT: College of Plant Science and Crop Production
- COLVET: College of Veterinary Medicine

We celebrate together because you earned your various degrees by passing through FUNAAB and allowing FUNAAB to pass through you. For our higher degree graduands, we recognize your commitment to scholarship, which you demonstrated in earning your various degrees. Please, uphold the University's core values of academic and moral excellence in your endeavours. These will distinguish you among your peers and make you very good ambassadors of the University.

## **5. HONORARY DEGREE AWARD AND APPOINTMENT OF EMERITI**

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, our University considers it fit to honour another eminent citizen of Nigeria, and indeed an individual who can be described as a World Citizen. **We have the privilege and honour today to award Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) to Dr Akinwumi Adesina. He is the President of the African Development Bank, a post he has held since 2015. He was a Minister of Agriculture, Federal Republic of Nigeria, from 2011-2015, prior to his appointment as the President of Africa Development Bank. In 2010, he was appointed by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon as one of the 17 global leaders to spearhead the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). A Nigerian who is a World Citizen is an apt description of this intellectual and scholar.**

The University Senate and Council have considered it fit for our University to appoint two Professor Emeriti for the first time in our history and during this 27<sup>th</sup> Convocation Ceremony. **This honour was unanimously approved, to be given to Professors Julius Amioba Okojie and Israel Folorunsho Adu.**

**Professor Julius Okojie was appointed Professor of Forest Resource Management, Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, in 1990. He was our Vice-Chancellor from 1996-2001. He held other positions prior to being the Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission from 2006-2016. He retired from FUNAAB and gave a valedictory lecture in 2018, titled, "A Servant is not Greater than His Master: Who Wants to Be a Vice- Chancellor"**

**Professor Adu became a Professor of Ruminant Nutrition and Management on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 1986 in Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. He transferred his services to the University of Agriculture, Abeokuta in October 1990 where he became the Vice-chancellor from 2001 to 2006. He is the first Vice-President of the Nigerian Institute of Animal Science (2007 to 2014) and currently, He is currently the National president of the Nigerian Institute of Animal Science.**

We are very clear in our mind that FUNAAB shall benefit tremendously from the wealth of experience of these worthy and noble awardees. We rejoice with them and thank them all.

## **6. CLOSING REMARKS**

We celebrate achievements in order to say thank you to God for helping us to impact positively on FUNAAB in our various areas of responsibilities. We thank all stakeholders who allowed an enabling environment to achieve. Particularly, we must thank the Visitor to Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari *GCFR*, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Federal Republic of Nigeria.

We recognize the fact that we cannot claim excellence where we are now. We solicit support from all stakeholders for us to take FUNAAB to higher levels. Let me seek the indulgence to bring to the fore again the delisting courses offered in our College of Management Sciences (COLMAS). In practical term, we have not been admitting students into the College since the time the directive was issued by Federal Authorities. Management Sciences are highly relevant in the practice of modern agriculture. Therefore, we appeal again, for the restoration of these courses. Earlier in this speech, I referred to the achievements of both staff and students of the College, indicating that their enthusiasm might be, dampened but not to the point of not being patriotic or abdication of scholarship.

We can achieve more with better funding. We appreciate the release of funds from various agencies of the Federal Government, and independent institutions that gave us grants. We plead for more to reach the level of excellence desired by all stakeholders.

Once again, I wish to congratulate the parents, guardians, sponsors and relations of the graduands for being a significant part of today's success story. You have provided support when it mattered most by investing in the education of the graduands. May I be permitted to bring it to your attention that it is not yet over. You still need to nurture them without limiting their lofty ideas and vision. Despite the knowledge and training imparted on the graduands in the University, they should remember that informal education is a life-long process of acquiring knowledge and gaining experience.

Long live FUNAAB!

Long live Ogun State!!

Long live Nigeria!!!

Thank you.

**Professor Felix Kolawole SALAKO, FSSSN**

**Vice-Chancellor**